

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 PM-05 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /044 W  
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O 132056Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4131

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 0317

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: AR  
SUBJECT: U.S. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN ARGENTINA

REF: (A) 77 STATE 295559, (B) 77 STATE 291277

OUR COMMENTS CONCERNING DRAFT STATEMENT OF U.S. GOALS  
FOLLOW BELOW NUMBERED IN THE SAME ORDER AS THEY  
APPEAR IN REFTEL A. (FOR PURPOSES OF CONVENIENCE WE  
HAVE ADDED LETTERING TO HELP IDENTIFY THE PARAGRAPHS  
IN EACH CLUSTER OF OBJECTIVES.);

### I. ENHANCED OBSERVATION OF POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS

(A) SUGGEST REVISING BEGINNING OF FIRST PARAGRAPH AS  
FOLLOWS: "REITERATE TO ALL LEVELS OF THE ARGENTINE  
GOVERNMENT AND MAKE KNOWN TO THE ARGENTINE PUBLIC THE  
SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH, ETC."

(B) ADD "THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GREATER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT  
CONTROL OVER SEMI-INDEPENDENT SECURITY ELEMENTS" TO THE  
LIST OF URGINGS WHICH DESERVE EMPHASIS.

(C) RECOMMEND EXPLICITLY ADDING THAT WE SHOULD PERSUADE  
ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT LEADERS TO ACCEPT VISITS BY THE INTER-  
AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE.

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OTHER THAN THE PROCEDURAL POINT THAT PARAGRAPHS (D), (F) AND  
(G) AS DRAFTED COME CLOSE TO CONSTITUTING COURSES OF ACTION  
AS OPPOSED TO GOALS. DEPARTMENT'S FORMULATION IS ACCEPTABLE  
TO US (WITH THE ADJUSTMENTS SUGGESTED AT F AND G BELOW, WHICH  
ARE PARTIALLY INTENDED TO REFLECT THE FACT THAT A MAJOR APPROACH  
TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS WILL BE THROUGH INFORMATIONAL, EXCHANGE

AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS).

(E) AS FORMULATED, THIS STATEMENT IS ACCEPTABLE.

(F) ADD "LABOR UNIONS AND OTHER SECTORS OF PUBLIC OPINION."

(G) RECOMMEND RESTATING THIS PARAGRAPH AS FOLLOWS: "ENCOURAGE MEASURED ADMINISTRATION, CONGRESSIONAL, LABOR AND U.S. SPECIALIST VISITS TO ARGENTINA TO UNDERLINE U.S. CONCERN FOR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. WE ALSO RECOMMEND INSERTING AS AN OBJECTIVE "THE STRENGTHENING OF TIES BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE AND U.S. (AS WELL AS DEMOCRATIC INTERNATIONAL) LABOR MOVEMENTS."

(H) AS DRAFTED, THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT APPEAR TO RESPOND TO CURRENT ARGENTINE REALITY. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT IS LESS INCLINED THAN ITS PREDECESSOR PERONIST REGIME TO ALLEVIATE PROBLEMS OF THE POOREST STRATA OF SOCIETY THROUGH FEDERAL BUDGET AND SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS, IT ESSENTIALLY HAS MAINTAINED THE BASIC SOCIAL PROGRAMS IT INHERITED FROM THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. MOREOVER, THE SENTENCE GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT WE BELIEVE ARGENTINA'S UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM TO BE A MAJOR ONE AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS UNWILLING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. IN FACT, ARGENTINA PROBABLY HAS THE LOWEST RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE WORLD AND IN RECENT MONTHS HAS EXPERIENCED A LABOR SHORTAGE IN MANY AREAS. TO IMPLY FURTHER THAT  
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ARGENTINA UNAWARE OF IT. WE RECOMMEND RECOMMEND SCRAPPING THIS PARAGRAPH ALTOGETHER.

(I) THIS STATEMENT SHOULD BE REVISED TO REFLECT THE FACT THAT A MAJOR ELEMENT TOWARDS ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE INVOLVES OBTAINING THE NECESSARY AUTHORITY IN THE U.S.

II. ARGENTINE SUPPORT FOR OUR NPT, ARMS CONTROL POLICIES  
(WE RECOMMEND REPLACING "NPT" WITH "NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION" IN THE ABOVE CHAPTER HEADINGS.)

(A) THE BEGINNING OF THIS SENTENCE SHOULD READ: "PERSUADE THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO RATIFY AND SUPPORT THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO, TO ACCEPT FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS, AND FOREGO, ETC."

III. ARGENTINE ROLE ON ECONOMIC ISSUES

(A) SUGGEST REMOVING "LATIN AMERICAN" FROM THIS STATEMENT. WE DOUBT WE COULD EFFECTIVELY DISSUADE ARGENTINES FROM CONTINUING TO PRESS U.S. ON TRADE ISSUES VIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC MACHINERY. TO ATTEMPT TO DO SO WOULD APPEAR TO RUN COUNTER TO

REGIONAL GOALS.

(B) RECOMMEND REVISING AS FOLLOWS: "WORK TO INCREASE THE U.S. SHARE OF THE ARGENTINE MARKET THROUGH AN AGGRESSIVE TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAM." REASON: OUR CCP DOES NOT CALL FOR TRADE SHOWS OR EXHIBITIONS THIS YEAR, BUT EMPHASIZES OTHER PROMOTIONAL TECHNIQUES SUCH AS U.S. TRADE MISSIONS.

(C) RECOMMEND ELIMINATING. AS DRAFTED, THE STATEMENT IS UNCLEAR AND IMPLIES THAT AS A MATTER OF POLICY WE DISCOURAGE THE ARGENTINES FROM TRADING WITH COMMUNIST OR OTHER EXTRA-HEMISPHERIC COUNTRIES, WHICH IS NOT THE CASE.

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THE OBJECTIVES RELATING TO INCREASING ARGENTINE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES (PARAGRAPH D). AND ENCOURAGING PRODUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF ARGENTINE AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURING (PARAGRAPH E) DO NOT APPEAR TO BE PRACTICAL OR REALISTIC AND WE RECOMMEND THAT THEY BE REVISED OR DELETED, NOTWITHSTANDING THEIR DESIRABILITY AS GENERALIZATIONS. PARAGRAPH "D" MIGHT READ BETTER IF WE SAID, "ENCOURAGE ARGENTINE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF THE RIVER PLATE REGION AND OF SOUTH AMERICA GENERALLY." HOWEVER, THIS IS AN AREA IN WHICH THE U.S. HAS VIRTUALLY NO INFLUENCE AND WE WOULD WISH TO SEE FURTHER ARGUMENTATION AS TO WHY THIS SHOULD TAKE PRIORITY AS A U.S. OBJECTIVE BEFORE CONCURRING IN ITS INSERTION IN THE PAPER.

THE SAME HOLDS FOR THE QUESTION OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, WHICH ADDITIONALLY IS A HIGHLY CHARGED POLITICAL ISSUE INVOLVING INTERNAL PRIORITIES IN ARGENTINA AND NOT ONE IN WHICH WE CAN DABBLE EASILY. IF THE PURPOSE OF THIS STATEMENT AS DRAFTED IS MERELY TO REFLECT THE FACT THAT WE APPLAUD ARGENTINA'S EFFORTS TO PUT ITS ECONOMY ON A SOUND

BASIS AND THEREBY PROMOTE BALANCED AND STEADY GROWTH, WE THINK THIS CAN BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. SUGGEST ELIMINATING (E). (F) WE ARE UNCERTAIN WHAT IS MEANT BY THE TERM "INTERMEDIARY." WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING REFORMULATION: "ENCOURAGE ARGENTINA TO PLAY A ROLE IN TRANSFERRING ITS OWN TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES, PARTICULARLY IN AGRICULTURE, TO POORER COUNTRIES."

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IV. A SATISFACTORY BILATERAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WHICH PROMOTES U.S. SECURITY INTERESTS

(A) PERHAPS IT WOULD BE MORE PRECISE TO SAY: "DISCOURAGE ARGENTINA'S PARTICIPATION IN A 'SOUTHERN CONE' BLOC TO THE DEGREE THAT BLOC TIES ARE DEVOTED, ETC."

(B) AS DRAFTED, THIS STATEMENT BEGS A CRITICAL QUESTION.

GIVEN EXISTING U.S. POLICY AND FURTHER PENDING LEGISLATION AS WELL AS THE IMPROBABILITY THAT THE GOA WILL BE ABLE/WILLING TO IMPROVE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES SUFFICIENTLY AND RAPIDLY ENOUGH TO SATISFY OUR REQUIREMENTS, U.S.- ARGENTINE MILITARY RELATIONS ALMOST INEVITABLY WILL BECOME STRAINED AND DETERIORATE IN THE COMING YEAR. THE GOAL OF MAINTAINING A COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES -- A GOAL WE BELIEVE TO BE IMPORTANT -- APPEARS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO ATTAIN. THIS STATEMENT OF GOALS SHOULD CLEARLY REFLECT THE DILEMMA AND THE HARD CHOICES FACING US.

(C) PERHAPS "INROADS OF SOVIET POLITICAL AND MILITARY INFLUENCE IN ARGENTINA" WOULD BE CLEARER. IN ADDITION TO ARGENTINA'S FAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE WITH THE U.S.S.R. AS A FACTOR FACILITATING SUCH INFLUENCE, SUGGEST INCLUDING "THE U.S.-ARGENTINA DISPUTE OVER HUMAN RIGHTS."

(D) ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION IN UNITAS SHOULD NOT ITSELF BE AN OBJECTIVE. OUR GOAL IN THIS AREA, AS WE SUGGESTED IN OUR COMMENT IN PARAGRAPH (B) ABOVE, SHOULD BE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND GOOD COMMUNICATION WITH THE ARMED FORCES. PARTICIPATION IN UNITAS PRESUMABLY SERVES THIS AND OTHER GOALS, BUT IN THE

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LIGHT OF THE SOUTHERN CONE SITUATION AND LAST YEAR'S NON-PARTICIPATION BY THE ARGENTINE NAVY, THIS IS NO LONGER AXIOMATIC. RECOMMEND ELIMINATING (D) AS AN INDEPENDENTLY

STATED OBJECTIVE.

SUGGEST ADDING AN ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVE (E) AS FOLLOWS: "TO THE DEGREE THAT WE FEASIBLY CAN PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE, ENCOURAGE ARGENTINA'S PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF ITS DISPUTES WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH MAY ENDANGER REGIONAL SECURITY.

V. ENCOURAGEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY OVER INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES WE HAVE NO MODIFICATIONS TO SUGGEST, EXCEPT THAT THE SECOND OBJECTIVE LISTED IN REFTEL A UNDER CATEGORY V. SEEMS TO BE SOMEWHAT REPETITIVE WITH RESPECT TO THE THOUGHT APPEARING AT III. (A).

VI. APPEARS TO BE MISSING IN REFTEL.

VII. PROMOTION OF IMPROVED HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES THROUGH CULTURAL EXCHANGES  
THE OBJECTIVE STATED HERE -- THAT OF EXCHANGES OF JURISTS -- HAS ALREADY BEEN SET FORTH UNDER CATEGORY I ABOVE. SUGGEST REMOVING IT HERE.

VIII. SUGGEST ADDING A NARCOTIC CONTROL OBJECTIVE CATEGORY AS FOLLOWS:

"STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

(A) PROMOTE COOPERATION AND IMPROVE CAPACITY OF ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO INTERDICT INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFIC.

(B) ENCOURAGE STRENGTHENING OF DRUG PREVENTION MEASURES  
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(CONSISTENT WITH LEGAL DUE PROCESS) AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS IN ARGENTINA."  
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## Message Attributes

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